

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 JAKART 13538 061057Z

43

ACTION SS-25

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R 060930Z NOV 74
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5180
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SAIGON
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 13538

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR ENRG ID
SUBJECT: ENERGY: GOI-GVN CONTINENTAL SHELF DISPUTE

REFS: A. JAKARTA 13096; B. SAIGON 13837

1. CONVERSATION WHICH AMBASSADOR HAD WITH AIR MARSHAL SOEDARMONO, HANKAM REPRESENTATIVE IN LOS MATTERS, NOVEMBER 4 AFFORDED OPPORTUNITY RAISE ONCE MORE QUESTION INDONESIAN INTENTIONS IN CONTINENTAL SHELF DISPUTE WITH SOUTH VIETNAM.

2. IN DISCUSSING PREPARATIIONS FOR MEETING WITH U.S. LOS TEAM IN EARLY DECEMBER, MARSHAL SOEDARMONO SAID INDONESIA HOLDING BILATERALS WITH THAILAND, MALAYSIA, SINGAPORE AND PHILIPPINES ON CONTINENTAL SHELF PROBLEMS DURING NOVEMBER. AMBASSADOR ASKED WHETHER THIS SERIES MIGHT NOT ALSO INCLUDE DISCUSSINS WITH SOUTH VIETNAM. ECHOING SENTIMENTS EXPRESSED IN JAKARTA 13096. AMBASSADOR SAID THERE SEEMED TO BE SERIIOS POTENTIAL PROBLEMS BETWEEN JAKARTA AND SAIGON BUT STPES TOWARD RESOLUTION APPEARED CAUGHT UP IN QUESTION OF WHO WAS TO MAKE NEXT MOVE.

3. MARSHAL SOEDARMONO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT VIETNAM REMAINED
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PAGE 02 JAKART 13538 061057Z

THE ONE COUNTRY WITH WHICH SERIOUS CONTINENTAL SHELF

PROBLEM STILL EXISTED. PROBLEM COULD BECOME MORE ACUTE SINCE AGIP (ITALIAN FIRM WHICH HOLDS INDONESIA PRODUCTION SHARING CONTRACT IN DISPUTED AREA) WANTS TO UNDERTAKE SEISMIC SOUNDINGS DURING NOVEMBER AND PLANS TO USE U.S. FLAG CONTRACTOR. SOEDARMONO HAS ASKED AGIP NOT TO PROCEED WITHOUT FURTHER CHECKING WITH HIM.

4. SOEDARMONO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE HAD BEEN CONFUSION ON WHO SHOULD TAKE INITIATIVE. INDONESIA DEFENSE DEPARTMENT, RECOGNIZING MILITARY IMPLICATION OF UNRESOLVED PROBLEM, HAD NOT ASKED MINISTER OF MINES SADLI TO ASK FOREIGN MINISTER MALIK AND MINISTER OF JUSTICE MOCHTAR (LOS EXPERT) TO GET THINGS MOVING.

5. WHEN AMBASSADOR ASKED IF THIS NEW APPROACH IMPLIED INDONESIA NOW PREPARED HAVE DELEGATION WITH DIPLOMATIC PARTICIPATION SOEDARMONO REPLIED THAT WHILE THERE MIGHT BE DIPLOMATIC OFFICERS ON TEAM, DELEGATION WOULD BE HEADED BY PERTAMINA STATE OIL COMPANY OFFICIAL AND WOULD ASSUME THAT SOUTH VIETNAM TEAM WOULD BE CHAIRED BY CORRESPONDING NATIONAL OIL COMPANY REPRESENTATIVE.

6. SOEDARMONO ASSURED US THAT INDONESIA HAS NO DESIRE DELAY CONSULTATIONS IN HOPES OF WIDER ACCEPTANCE OF ARCHIPELAGO CONCEPT. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE HAD BEEN CONTACTS AT CARACAS BUT SAID THAT "THEY HAD RUN OUT OF TIME." HE COMMENTED SOUTH VIETNAM POSITION SEEMED INCONSISTENT SINCE THEY USED PRINCIPLE OF DRAWING LINE FROM OUTER MOST ISLAND WHEN DEALING WITH KHMER BUT INSISTED ON PRINCIPLE OF LINE BETWEEN LARGEST ISLANDS IN DEALING WITH INDONESIA.

7. CONVERSATION WITH SOEDARMONO ADDS TO OUR SUSPICION THAT REAL STUMBLING BLOCK IS GENERAL IBNU OF PERTAMINA AND THAT SOEDARMONO'S PRESENT TACTICS HOPE THAT PRESSURE OF OUR MINISTRIES INVOLVED CAN CHANGE IBNU'S POSITION. POSSIBLE PRESENCE OF U.S. FLAG VESSEL IN DISPUTED AREA ADDS ADDITIONAL WORRISOME ELEMENT. SOEDARMONO'S SUGGESTED BUREAUCRATIC TACTICS DO NOT LEAVE US WITH OPTIMISM THAT INDONESIA WILL MAKE ANY EARLY MOVE. WE WILL CONTINUE
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PAGE 03 JAKARTA 13538 061057Z

PRESSURE AS OPPORTUNITIES ARISE.
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